

Amateur Radio NewslineT Report 1472 - October 28, 2005

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1472 with a release date of Friday, October 28, 2005 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio is ready as hurricane Wilma makes landfall in Mexico and the United States. Hear the graphic details on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1472 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: A HURRICANE NAMED WILMA - PART 2

Hurricane Wilma's slow progress over Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula took a heavy toll on local villages and luxury resorts. It also knocked out power and other utilities. With all means of communications down, it was up to ham radio let the outside world know what had happened. One of the most cryptic damage assessments came from XF3PAS on Cozumel:

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XF3PAS: "I can tell you that this is very serious damage. We have no communications. We have two cruise ship terminals and we have our cargo pers also down. so we have no way at this moment to have water or food (delivered). We have to bring it overland. Over."

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Alberto also provided reports to the Hurricane Watch net on 14.325 MHz:

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XF3PAS: "It devistated a terifficly (wide) areas. Hotels on the ocean front are down. Some of them are completely damaged and the erosion at the South end is really bad. It goes like 50 yards in over solid rock. There is nothing in the area other than solid rock that was about 50 yards inside. Over."

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By Sunday morning, October 23rd, Wilma was a Category 2 hurricane as it headed into the Gulf of Mexico. Its next target was the west coast of Florida, with landfall taking place on Monday the 24th. Steve Crow, K4CPX, in Punta Gorda reported that Wilma's eye wall clocked at 120 Knots passed directly over Marco Island as forecasters had predicted with Naples and Everglades City directly in the hurricane's path. Steve also reported that he had not lost power though the lights were blinking every so often. He also had good news that his boat. The Sea Fox was riding out the storm very well.

Wilma then crossed Florida heading directly toward the Ft. Lauderdale area. There were reports of storm surge flooding in the Keys. Ron Keister, KG4DWP at the E-O-C in Boynton Beach who described only light to moderate damage at about noon on the 25th over Hurricane Watch Net VoIP circuits:

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KG4DWP: "It appears we are in the south-west eyewall at this time. We have rain and wind and we do have some structural damage to the adjacent buildings. Roofs, sidings and trees down. That kind of thing."

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Further North, Martin Falk, KI4IQZ, reported in from the Oakland Park Emergency Operations Center

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KI4IQZ: "Its slowed down a tiny bit but its still windy. Everyone is staying put. The fire department in Oakland Park is considering going out shortly, hoping that the winds go down in the next ten to fifteen minutes. Its to dangerous for high profile vehicles right now. Back to net."

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The big problem in the area between Deerfield Beach and Boynton Beach was not a loss of phone. Rather it was the power that kept going away. As Wilm's eye passed over the area, our producer Bill Pasternak was surprised when the phone rang with his in-laws in Boca Raton on the other end:

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"I was sitting here, actually working on the script for Newsline when my wife called out to me and said that mom and dad were on the phone. I picked up the extension and talked to them for a while and found out that - yes - they had no power. And yes - they had no cellular service. No gas, I believe. But the telephones kept working - at least in the Boca Raton area."

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That area was one of the few where landline telephones remained in operation even though cellular service went out. The ham radio community using emergency power kept on the air even though at times the copy was a little rough:

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(Unidentified operators. Hard to decipher off-air audio).

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As Wilma approached, the Hurricane Watch Net worked in conjunction with National Hurricane Center station WX4NHC to gather data on the storm. Meantime, with power out to over 6 million people after the storm finally made its way off shore, ARES and other emergency communications volunteers throughout Florida provided ongoing assistance to relief officials and the public.

According to news reports, 10 people in Florida lost their lives in the storm. Authorities say that they hope to have electrical service completely restored no later than November 16th.

A databases where hams can reguister to volunteer to provide assistance to

relief agencies has been set up for the ARRL by Joe Tomasone, AB2M. Its on-line at wilma.ab2m.net. Again that's wilma.ab2m.net. (ARNewslineT with most audio from HWN IRLP Conference)

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RESCUE RADIO: ARRL ANNOUNCES POST KATRINA-RITA TOY DRIVE

The American Radio Relay League is coming to the aid of children in the coastal areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana hit by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This, by conducting a nation-wide holiday toy drive.

Between now and December 10th, hams across United States are collecting new toys for children in the stricken areas. They are then packaged with a card showing the persons callsign and sent to a central collection point from where the Salvation Army will handle the distribution.

To make a donation just send your toy and card to the ARRL Toy Drive in care of the Salvation Army, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd - Suite 12 Memphis, Tennessee, 38117-7125. On Christmas morning there will likely be a youngster in the storm ravaged gulf states that will be smiling because a radio amateur like you - really cared. (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: SOCAL POWER OUTAGE FOLLOW-UP

A follow-up to our story last week about the response by hams to a power outage that hit parts of Southern California about a week and a half ago. Amateur Radio Newsline's Joe Mell, K-Zero-O-V, says that the outage and the ham radio response were both a lot wider than first reported:

In addition to Long Beach and adjacent Los Angeles County cities, the outage affected at least 10 cities in Orange County as well. That's where medical-related communications are regularly provided by hams in the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System.

HDSCS as it is better known, was activated at 6 AM at the request of South Coast Medical Center in Laguna Beach. As hams were heading to that hospital, the phone status of other hospitals in affected cities was being determined. This resulted in responses to two more, Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center in Fountain Valley and Los Alamitos General Hospital in Los Alamitos.

When Orange County officials activated the Emergency Operations Center at 9 AM, HDSCS already had two operators there, providing communications from the dispatch Central Point. And how did other county agencies reach the hospitals without phones? The Net Control and HDSCS founder April Moell WA6OPS recalls:

"The communications center officials gave my two phone numbers to hospitals and ambulance companies, as well as some police and fire departments. I was called when they needed to contact any of the affected hospitals."

Traffic on the HDSCS two-meter net included inter-hospital messages regarding patient transfers and the names of on-call physicians. The California Office of Emergency Services' Region 1 EOC ham station used the HDSCS net to get status of the affected OC hospitals for relay to state headquarters in Sacramento. Phone services began coming back up around noon and repairs were complete by 2:30 PM, at which time the ham operations secured.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline in "The OC," I'm Joe Moell. K0OV

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By the way, the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System is an ARES group that is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Our congratulations to them. (ARNewslineT, K0OV)

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RESCUE RADIO: CISCO ANNOUNCES TOTAL INTEROPERABILITY RADIO INTERCONNECT

Cisco Systems, a company hams know best for its computer system routing products is getting into the business band and emergency communications

business. This with the announcement that it has developed a new technology designed to flawlessly interconnect radio and Voice over I P communications networks.

The core of what Cisco has developed is a system that allows users of private mobile radios talk to each other even if they use different radio standards and frequencies. Called IP-based Interoperability and Collaboration Systems or I-P-I-C-S, it works by carrying all the radio traffic over an I-P network controlled by a single command center. From there it interconnects all users on an open or selective call basis as dictated by those involved in the conversation.

Shah Talukder is a Cisco general manager for Safety Systems and Security. He tells Techworld dot com that the system is not limited to radio to radio communications. He says that it could be adapted for voice-over-IP and could bring radio channels on to laptop computers. This would mean total interoperability interconnecting any voice to any other voice, whether or not a radio was involved in the circuit or not.

Talukder says that Cisco developed the system to solve the problems within emergency services. For example in those instances where the police, ambulance and hospitals are using different frequencies but need to immediately talk to one another. He admitted that there are some security issues owing to the large numbers of people listening to emergency broadcasts through scanners, but says that the security built around IP, notably I-PSec would be enough to make the system robust.

Talukder adds that IPICS will mean sweeping changes for all of the emergency services. If adopted by radio amateurs, it could mean an instant interconnect between an emergency site and a ham radio base of operations such as ARRL Headquarters, even if the two are thousands of miles away. (Techworld)

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Break 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WL7CVG repeater atop Mt

Susitina and serving Anchorage, Palmer and the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESTRUCTURING: CODE TEST NPRN COMMENTS CLOSE OCTOBER 31ST

The closing date to file comments on the FCC petition to abandon Morse testing for candidates seeking an Amateur Radio license is Monday, October 31st. If you want to be heard on the issue then you need to write quickly.

According to an ARRL Bulletin, more than 2600 comments have been filed in response to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in WT Docket 05-235. This is the document that proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes. It also denies several proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

While October 31st is the last day for initial filing, the reply comment period runs through Monday, November 14th. An FCC Report and Order in this proceeding is not likely until sometime in 2006. (ARRL)

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RESTRUCTURING: ARRL PRES SAYS TO BRING BACK THE NOVICE CLASS

And speaking about restructuring one person who thinks the FCC is wrong in not considering an entry level license is ARRL president Jim Haynie, W5JBP. In fact, Haynie believes it is time to bring back the novice license, but with a few changes for the 21st century. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, spoke with President Haynie about this back to the future idea:

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Jim Haynie is pretty adamant about the issue. And, he thinks the FCC is missing an opportunity.

"Back when I was first a novice, I got a good taste of what was going on HF

and how we could do long-distance communications," Haynie says. "Today, we don't have that. What we have is what I would call - and this is my own personal opinion - a 2-meter ghetto."

Haynie says he's not disparaging those who operate 2-meters and use it for hobby communication or public service activities. Rather, Haynie says to only open the door ajar to allow for 2-meter operations for new licensees doesn't go far enough.

"What I would like to see is the FCC to turn around and give some voice privileges on HF so people that are new in amateur radio an ability to find out what it's like to talk to foreign countries," Haynie says.

Haynie agrees he speaks with some nostalgia. But he also feels new people coming into amateur radio aren't getting the whole picture.

"I know when I was a novice, I worked 40 meters and knew a bunch of people all over the world," Haynie recalls. "And where 40 meters would propagate to. And that gave me the taste of amateur radio as far as HF communications goes.

"I think that's something we need to have today, I really do. And, what's going on is the fact that the new people coming into amateur radio don't have that ability."

It was January 2004 when the ARRL board took a position endorsing a new, entry level class it called novice with HF voice and cw privileges. The ARRL's proposal called for limited HF voice activity for the new novices on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. It also suggested restricting power output to 100 watts on 80, 40, and 15 meters, and 50 watts on 10 meters.

Haynie says the board's position really hasn't changed.

"All of the board members are fully in agreement and we feel like that a novice class license with HF voice privileges are something that would be very important and the question is can I convince the FCC," Haynie says.

So far, the FCC has pretty much rebuffed the ARRL's plan, but Haynie vows he won't gve up.

"I think what we'll have to do is spend some time in talking to the commission about where that would go and what it would do to enhance amateur radio and the new licensees coming on the air," Haynie says.

For the Amateur Radio Newslne, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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President Haynie is not the only one who feels that its time for a Novice with phone privileges. Others like Hollywood film maker Dave Bell, W6AQ, also believe that the real "sizzle" for the hobby is on the low bands. That the infectious spirit of ham radio is much harder to catch when you are only operating local VHF repeaters. (ARNewslneT)

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HOMELAND SECURITY: 10-CODES ARE OKAY AFTER ALL

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has changed his mind and won't require the abolition of 10-codes in everyday law enforcement communications as a condition of compliance with the National Incident Management System and eligibility for future federal grants. Chertoff's recent announcement at the Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Miami Beach earned him a warm round of applause. (CGC)

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THE BPL WAR: ARRL CALLS ON THE FCC TO SHUT DOWN MANASSAS VA BPL

The ARRL has asked the FCC to instruct the City of Manassas, Virginia, to shut down its broadband over power line system. This, after the system manger failed to resolve interference complaints filed by several radio amateurs. Amateur Radio Newsluine's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with the details:

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According to the ARRL Letter, Communication Technologies or COMTek Incorporated operates the BPL system over the Manassas, Virginia municipally owned electric power grid. The League says the facility has been the target of interference complaints, none of which has resulted in any action or even interest on the part of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology's staff. In the meantime, the ARRL says, interference to local Amateur Radio stations continues.

In a 16 page filing the both the O-E-T and the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, the ARRL said that the Manassas system currently causes harmful interference, and as such is not compliant with applicable FCC Part 15 regulations. The League says that whatever actions either Manassas Power or Communication Technologies might have taken to relieve the problem have not been successful and the interference persists to the present time.

The ARRL goes on to say that this is precisely the situation in which the system must be shut down, pending successful resolution of the interference problem it creates. In doing so it has thrown the ball back into the regulatory hands of the FCC.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.

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Two years ago, the ARRL put Manassas officials on notice that it would act on behalf of its members to ensure full compliance with FCC regulations once the city's BPL system, then in the trial stage, started up. If the FCC refuses to act it could leave the ARRL with no other option than to take the matter into the Federal courts. (ARRL, ARNewslineT, others)

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ENFORCEMENT: PROPOSED CROSS BORDER MICROWAVE FINE #1

Broadcaster Pacific Spanish Network of Chula Vista, California has tentatively been fined \$10,000. This, for unauthorized 22 GHz microwave operations in the U.S..

Back on March 8th, the Commission's San Diego Office began its

investigation of allegations that Pacific Spanish Network was operating an unauthorized microwave radio station. The microwave system in question is presumably used to beam multiple audio programs across the U.S. - Mexican border to feed Mexican stations, which in turn beam the programs back to the U.S.

An agent from the San Diego office monitored and measured the transmissions of a microwave radio station operated at Pacific Spanish' showing it was a microwave radio station operating on 22473.5 MHz. The FCC says that a review of its database revealed that Pacific Spanish has no authorization to operate a point-to-point microwave radio station. It noted that Pacific Spanish did have a pending license application, filed January 13th for this transmitter site but this application was dismissed on March 1st. (CGC)

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ENFORCEMENT: PROPOSED CROSS-BORDER MICROWAVE FINE #2

In an unrelated action, the FCC has issued a \$10,000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Uniradio in San Diego. Uniradio is a program supplier to XEMO AM in Tijuana, Mexico that the FCC claims is operating an unlicensed cross-border transmission facility.

In its defense, Uniradio told the FCC that the equipment company that installed the radio transmitter had inadvertently switched the receiver and transmitter frequencies as the station should be operating on 22464.75 MHz. Uniradio also stated that they have applied to the FCC for a special temporary authority and they have corrected the transmitter frequency error.

But the is nit buying the excuse. In issuing the N-A-L the FCC says that Uniradio Corporation apparently willfully and repeatedly violated Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934 by operating an unlicensed microwave radio station on the 2.1 GHz microwave band and that Uniradio is apparently liable for a forfeiture (CGC)

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ENFORCEMENT: PROPOSED CROSS-BORDER MICROWAVE FINE #3

Lastly, a series of proposed fines have also been issued to a variety of other U.S. companies, many of which are involved in cross-border manufacturing. Apparently these companies have been beaming unauthorized microwave signals across the U.S. - Mexican border to coordinate plant activities. (CGC)

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HAM AID: FAR SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

The Foundation for Amateur Radio has announced that it plans to administer 54 scholarships for the 2006 through 2007 academic year. This, in the hope of assisting hams who are planning on attending full-time institutions of higher learning.

The awards range from \$500 to \$2500. In some cases preference is given to residents of a given geographical area or to those who are pursuing certain courses of study.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio is a Federal 501c 3 tax exempt organization devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio. For additional information and an application form, write to F-A-R Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, Maryland, 20738

The cutoff date to apply is April 30, 2006. (FAR)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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FUTURES FILE: TIME IS NEAR WHEN CELLPHONES WILL REPLACE COMPUTERS

Qualcomm chairman Irwin Jacobs says the memory and processing power in today's cellphones are the equivalent of a Pentium III computer running at 550 MHz. He predicts Moore's Law will soon boost that equation to make cellphones the personal computers of tomorrow. Jacobs also thinks most major metropolitan areas of the United States will offer video on demand by the end of 2006. (CGC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: ARRL ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS

From the ARRL Letter word that the League's Membership Services Department has announced the appointments of two advisory committee chairmen. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has named Ward Silver, NA0X, to a one-year term as the chairman of the Contest Advisory Committee. Silver succeeds Joe Staples, W5ASP, who served at the helm of the CAC for about two and a half years. Staples will remain the West Gulf Division's CAC representative.

President Haynie has also reappointed Jim O'Connell, W9WU, to another one-year term as chairman of the DX Advisory Committee. O'Connell has headed up the DXAC for the past two years. (ARRL)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: HONORS FOR OUTGOING HAMVENTION GENERAL CHAIRMAN N8EMO

Ohio's Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau will honor outgoing Hamvention General Chairman Gary De Combes, N-8-E-M-O, at its 14th Annual Community Ambassador Awards Breakfast. De Combes is one of ten meeting planners who will be celebrated for their part in bringing events to the Dayton/Montgomery County area during the past year.

The awards breakfast is scheduled for the Dayton Marriott Hotel for

Thursday, November 10th. Over 100 Community Ambassador Award winners have been honored since the initial breakfast in 1992. (City of Dayton)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW AMSAT OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

And AMSAT North America has announced who will guide that organization in the coming months. Amateur Radio Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8H DU, is here with all call signs and names:

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Rick Hambly, W2GPS, will continue as President of AMSAT North America. This, as the organization announces the results of officer selection to serve the 2005 through 2006 year.

Elected along with Hambly are Executive Vice President Lee McLamb, KU4OS; Vice President of Operations Mike Kingery, KE4AZN and Vice President of Human Spaceflight Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

Bob McGwier, N4HY, will serve as Vice President of Engineering; Barry Baines, WD4ASW, as Vice President of Marketing and User Services; Steve Diggs, W4EPI, as Secretary; Gunther Meisse, W8GSM as treasurer. Martha Saragovitz, continues in her position of Manager.

AMSAT-NA has also announced its leadership team for the 2005 to 2006 business year. In alphabetic order, those elected to serve on the groups Board of Directors are Barry Baines, WD4ASW; Emily Clarke, W0EEC; Tom Clark, W3IWI; Rick Hambly, W2GPS; Lou McFadin, W5DID; Gunther Meiss, W8GSM and Dr. H. Paul Shuch, N6TX. First alternate is Bob McGwier, N4HY with Lee McLamb, KU4OS as second alternate

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With this group running the show, AMSAT appears to be in some very good hands as it faces the future of ham radio in space. (ANS)

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WORLDBEAT-GERMANY: DRM PLAYING HAVOC WORLDWIDE

Germany shortwave broadcaster Deutsche Welle recently introduced a new Digital Radio Mondiale service from its Taldom Russia relay site that's reportedly tearing up the airways, but not in a very positive way.

According to a report from Bob Padula the signal is on 9.690 MHz beaming 260 degrees from 0400 to 0600 U-T-C daily broadcasting in various languages toward Europe. The problem is that the wideband signal is creating havoc to other broadcasters.

For example, Padula is in Melbourne, Australia where the D-R-M digital hash is blocking everything from 9.680 to 9.700 MHz because of long path propagation. It's also co-channel with R-E-E Noblejas which has its Sefardi service to the same target zone from 04:45 to 05:15 UTC. Channel Africa's English service on 9.685 MHz from 05:00 to 06:00 UTC is also affected.
(Bob Padula via SCADS)

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DX

In DX, word that DL7AFS and DJ7ZG will be on the air portable 5 B from Cyprus through November 16th. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters mainly on SSB, RTTY and PSK31. Look for them on the usual DX frequencies, especially using 30, 17 and 12 meters. QSL via DL7AFS, either direct or by the bureau. (OPDX)

And LY1DF, will be active from Dodecanese as J45A during the CQ World Wide D-X C-W Contest on November 26th and 27th as a Single-Operator Single-Band entry. The single band is likely to be 160 or 80 meters. QSL direct to LY1DF. (OPDX)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: WOULD YOU BELIEVE A GHOST DETECTING RADAR?

And finally this week, with Halloween right around the corner comes word

that the Japanese company that launched popular computer data storage units shaped like rubber ducks and dishes of Sushi started is now selling a new product. One that some hams might find usefull. Would you believe an honest to goodness ghost detector? Amateur Radio Newsline's Evi Simons takes a look:

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It seems as though Dan Akroyd and Rick Moranis just aren't up to date. Nobody's calling the Ghost Busters! Instead, they're going with GhostRadar, the newest computer add-on from Solid Alliance.

Yup, thats right. Solid Alliance Corporation has come out with a device with a built-in ghost radar detection system. How does it work? Well, from what we know of it, it beeps and flashes red lights in response to the spirits unusual magnetic waves. It also reacts to body heat and perspiration that is detected by a sensor where users place their thumbs.

A representative from Solid Alliance said that the device may beep as often as once an hour in a place that's haunted, but from what I can tell; it may just beep if you're in a warm room with no air conditioning.

If you thought this novelty item was enough to sell it to you, the device also has a regular USB memory storage device included. This little device can not only alert you of ghosts in the house, but can also store your documents, digital photos, and mp3s. What a novelty indeed!

In Japan, this item will cost you about twice what a regular USB memory storage device will - \$185 for 512 megabytes. Not a bad price for such an important function. No word yet on how much they will cost here.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Evi Simons haunting you from New York.

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Solid Alliance recommends GhostRadar for such things spooky late nights alone at your computer or to those curious about finding out if their sudden chills represent a supernatural visitor. We can think of one other use hams can put it to. That's seeing if the strange sound Morse signal

you come across on 20 meters is a very, very long delayed echo from another century and a now silent key.

Happy Halloween.

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is [newsline @arnewsline.org](mailto:newsline@arnewsline.org). More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening." Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2005. All rights reserved.